department for Biotechnology/transgenics.The final release of transgenics is approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests after their effective evaluation.

Loss of standing crop by drought and floods

2504. SHRIRAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: ^

(a) whether Government have assessed the loss of standing crop and sowing of new crop, in the areas reeling under drought due to scanty or no rains and affected flash floods, in different States/UTs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to prevent the situation becoming worst through contingency plan; and

(d) what steps were taken to avert the drought and flood situations, when there were such indications in the forecast of natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) There are reports of serious setback in agricultural operations during the current kharif mainly due to widespread and prolonged dry spell in the South West Monsoon but in certain areas due to floods also. It will be pre-mature to assess specific losses at this stage. It is, however, estimated that there is **a** shortfall in area shown in respect of various crops. Union Agriculture Minister has taken a meeting of Agriculture and Relief Ministers of affected States. Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of all affected States have been released. While there are a number of programmes for drought and floods prevention, such programmes, while affording reasonable protection to large areas, cannot altogether rule out occurrence of such natural calamities.

Assistance to drought hit States

2505. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released any special assistance recently to the drought hit areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to provide alternate employment to agricultural workers and tribals in those areas; and

(d) if so, the details of allotment made in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 amounting to about Rs.676 crore has recently been released to the drought affected States as per details given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Advance release of Central Share
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81.89
2.	Chhattisgarh	22.72
3.	Haryana	33.615
4.	Himachal Pradesh	35.96
5.	Karnataka	30.83
6.	Madhya Pradesh	25.89
7.	Maharashtra	64.995
8.	Orissa	90.52
9.	Punjab	101.47
10.	Rajasthan	85.58
11.	Tamil Nadu	42.435
12.	Uttar Pradesh	60.475

(d) Besides, 50 lakh MTs of food-grains along with cash component is immediately available for employment generation.